Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Kindly cancel claims 1-15 and 17, 23, 24, and 28; and amend claims 22 and 25 as follows:

Listing of Claims:

1-21. (CANCELLED)

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of treating premature ejaculation in a patient needing such treatment comprising the steps of:

administering meatally to a patient in need of treatment of premature ejaculation an ejaculation latency prolonging amount of a semi-solid composition comprising:

from about 0.01 to about 4 percent by weight based on the weight of the composition of a topical anesthetic;

from 0.1 percent to 0.5 percent by weight based on the total weight of the composition of a vasoactive prostaglandin selected from the group consisting of prostaglandin E_1, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, a lower alkyl ester thereof wherein the lower alkyl is a straight chain or branched chain alkyl containing one to four carbon atoms, and a mixture thereof;

a polymeric thickener selected from the group consisting of a shear-thinning polysaccharide gum and shear-thinning polyacrylic acid polymer;

a lipophilic component that is selected from the group consisting of an aliphatic C_1 to C_8 alcohol, an aliphatic C_8 to C_{30} ester, a liquid polyol and a mixture thereof;

water; and

a buffer system that provides a buffered pH value for said composition in the range of about 3 to about 7.4;

wherein administering the semi-solid composition administers about 0.1 mg to about 0.5 mg of vasoactive prostaglandin and confers prolongation of ejaculation latency to the patient, thereby treating premature ejaculation in the patient.

23.-24. (CANCELLED)

25. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of claim 23 wherein the amount of vasoactive prostaglandin administered is ~~present in the amount of~~ about 0.2 mg to about 0.3 mg.

26. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 22 wherein the topical anesthetic is an aminoamide local anesthetic selected from the group consisting of lidocaine, bupivacaine, mepivacaine, dibucaine, propivacaine, etidocaine, tocainide, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a mixture thereof.

27. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 22 wherein the topical anesthetic is a local anesthetic selected from the group consisting of lidocaine, bupivacaine, dyclonine, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a mixture thereof.

28. (CANCELLED)

29. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 22 wherein the polymeric thickener is a shear-thinning polyacrylic acid polymer.

30. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 22 wherein the polymeric thickener is a shear-thinning polysaccharide gum.

31. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 22 wherein the shear-thinning polysaccharide gum is a galactomannan gum.

32. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 22, wherein the shear-thinning polysaccharide gum is a modified galactomannan gum.

33. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 32 wherein the modified galactomannan gum is a modified guar gum.

34. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 22 wherein the composition further comprises a penetration enhancer selected from the group consisting of an alkyl-(N-substituted amino) alkanoate, an alkyl-2-(N,N-disubstituted amino) alkanoate, an (N-substituted amino) alkanol alkanoate, an (N,N-disubstituted amino) alkanol alkanoate, a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a mixture thereof.

35. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 34 wherein the penetration enhancer is dodecyl 2-(N,N-dimethylamino)-propionate or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt.

36. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 22 wherein the lipophilic component comprises at least one aliphatic C_8 to C_{30} ester.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 22 wherein the composition comprises at least one glyceryl ester selected from the group consisting of a monoglyceride, a diglyceride, a triglyceride, and a mixture thereof.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 37 wherein the composition comprises at least one glyceryl ester selected from the group consisting of glyceryl monooleate, triolein, trimyristin, tristearin, and a mixture thereof.

39. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 22 wherein the composition further comprises an emulsifier selected from the group consisting of a sucrose ester, a polyoxyethylene sorbitan ester, a long chain alcohol, and a glyceryl ester.

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 22 wherein the emulsifier comprises at least one glyceryl ester selected from the group consisting of glyceryl monooleate, triolein, trimyristin, tristearin, and a mixture thereof.

41. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 22 wherein the composition further comprises up to about 5 percent myrtenol, based on the total weight of the composition.

42. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 22 wherein the composition further comprises a preservative.

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 22 wherein the composition further comprises a fragrance.

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 22 wherein the ejaculation latency time is no less than two minutes.

45. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 22 wherein the ejaculation latency time is greater than two minutes.

46. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 22 wherein the ejaculation latency is prolonged by at least two minutes.

47. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 22 wherein the composition is administered about 2 to about 30 minutes before sexual intercourse.

48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 22 wherein the composition is administered 5 to 20 minutes before sexual intercourse.